

Quilt Block Made by a Slave



This c. 1860 quilt block has an appliqué oak leaf pattern. It is made with fabric roller-printed between 1840 and 1860. It is in the collection of the Michigan State University Museum. The donor had received seven blocks from her housekeeper who had found them in her home in Alabama. The quilt block is attributed to a black slave.

The quilt block was featured in the *African-American Quilt-Making Traditions* exhibit at the Michigan State University Museum in 1991 and traveled the state to other museums. The photograph, taken by Mark Eifert, is courtesy of the Michigan State University Museum, Michigan Traditional Arts Program. The

photograph appears in *African American Quilting in Michigan*, a Michigan State University Press book based on the 1991 exhibit. The book is edited by Marsha MacDowell, Michigan State University Museum curator of folk arts.